

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-12-25  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group

Ref: S&C-05-29

**DATE:** June 9, 2005

**TO:** State Survey Agency Directors

**FROM:** Director  
Survey and Certification Group

**SUBJECT:** **Nursing Homes** - Advance Issuance of Revised Interpretive Guidelines for Tag F501,  
Medical Director

**Letter Summary**

- This memorandum presents the Advance Copy of our final change to the Interpretive Guidelines in State Operations Manual, Appendix PP for 42 CFR 483.75(i), F501 Medical Director.
- We are delaying final issuance until November 2005 to allow State Survey Agencies and providers to complete training on the new guidance.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has completed their work to produce new surveyor guidance for nursing home deficiency tag F501, Medical Director. The new guidance includes Interpretive Guidelines, an Investigative Protocol, and Severity guidance for deficiencies cited at F501. We are delaying final issuance until November 2005 to allow surveyors to be trained in the new guidance and to permit facilities and medical directors to study the significantly revised and expanded guidance.

Enclosed is the Advance Copy of the revised F501 guidance. **There has been no change in the regulatory language for this Tag.**

**Effective Date:** Distribution to survey personnel – immediately; final issuance – November, 2005.

**Training:** The information contained in this announcement should be shared with all nursing home surveyors and supervisors.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management (G-5)

Enclosure